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Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /094 W
----------032005 232237Z /14
R 231736Z JUN 78
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2989
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0368

FROM US REP MBFR

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E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD JUNE 19-25

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. EASTERN REPS AT THE JUNE 20 INFORMAL SESSION AND JUNE 22 PLENARY MEETING OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS PRAISED THE MERITS OF THEIR JUNE 8 PROPOSALS AND CONFIRMED THE WESTERN UNDER-
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STANDING OF THEM ON A FEW POINTS OF DETAIL. AT THE POST-PLENARY PRESS BRIEFING, THE EASTERN SPOKESMAN EMPHASIZED THE EAST'S INTEREST IN RECEIVING A CONSTRUCTIVE WESTERN RESPONSE AT AN EARLY DATE AND ITS WILLINGNESS TOWARD THIS END PROMPTLY TO PROVIDE SUCH CLARIFICATIONS AS THE WEST SOUGHT CONCERNING THE LATEST EASTERN MOVE. AS PROOF OF THE LATTER

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PROPOSITION, THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT EASTERN PARTICIPANTS HAD DEPARTED FROM THE USUAL PROCEDURE IN CHOOSING TO SPEAK AT THE JUNE 22 PLENARY MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. WESTERN REPS AT THE JUNE 20 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA TALKS ASKED FURTHER QUESTIONS ON THE JUNE 8 EASTERN PROPOSALS AND ON EASTERN MILITARY MANPOWER DATA AND POINTED OUT THE DEFECTS OF THAT PROVISION IN THE FORMER WHICH WOULD GRANT THE SOVIET UNION DISCRETION IN A STAGE II NEGOTIATIONS TO ANNUL A STAGE I AGREEMENT. EASTERN REPS PRAISED THE MERITS OF THEIR NEW PROPOSALS, FOCUSING IN PARTICULAR ON THOSE ASPECTS DEALING WITH STAGE II REDUCTIONS. THEY ALSO RESPONDED TO PREVIOUS AND A NUMBER OF NEW WESTERN QUESTIONS ON THEIR JUNE 8 PROPOSALS AND TO PREVIOUS WESTERN QUESTIONS ON DATA.

3. DURING THE SESSION, EASTERN REPS CONCEDED THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE UNDER THE EASTERN PROPOSALS FOR THE SOVIET UNION QUICKLY TO RETURN ITS FORCES IN THE REDUCTION AREA TO THEIR POST-REDUCTION LEVEL, BUT TERMED SUCH AN EVENTUALITY HIGHLY THEORETICAL. IN DEALING WITH THE FURTHER WESTERN POINT THAT THE EASTERN PROPOSALS MIGHT MAKE IT MATHEMATICALLY IMPOSSIBLE IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES FOR WESTERN PARTICIPANTS
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TO COMPENSATE FULLY FOR UNILATERAL MANPOWER REDUCTIONS AFTER IMPLEMENTATION OF AN AGREEMENT, EASTERN REPS APPEARED TO INVITE ALTERNATIVE WESTERN SUGGESTIONS. EASTERN REPS SAID THEIR PROPOSED UNIT LIMITATIONS WOULD BE APPLIED TO THE LARGEST-SIZE UNITS REDUCED BY EACH INDIVIDUAL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS AND THEN ONLY ON UNITS OF THE FUNCTIONAL TYPE ACTUALLY REDUCED SUCH AS, FOR EXAMPLE, TANK BATTALIONS. THEY CONFIRMED THAT THE DISPOSITION OF ARMAMENTS AND EQUIPMENT OF WITHDRAWN US UNITS, OTHER THAN THE US NUCLEAR ELEMENTS WHOSE WITHDRAWAL THE WEST HAD PROPOSED, WOULD BE LEFT TO THE DISCRETION OF US AUTHORITIES. IN RESPONDING TO EARLIER WESTERN QUESTIONS ON EASTERN DATA, EASTERN REPS CHALLENGED WESTERN REPS TO SPECIFY ON A NATIONAL BASIS DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN OFFICIAL EASTERN DATA AND WESTERN ESTIMATES OF WARSAW PACT MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE REDUCTION AREA.

4. AT THE JUNE 22 PLENARY MEETING, BOTH NETHERLANDS

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0368

REP DE VOS AND GDR REP OESER DELIVERED FORMAL
STATEMENTS. IN HIS PRESENTATION, DE VOS DISCUSSED
THE NATURE OF THE OUTCOME TO THE NEGOTIATIONS ENVISAGED
BY WESTERN PROPOSALS AS MODIFIED BY THE WEST'S APRIL
19 INITIATIVE. HE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THE JUNE
8 EASTERN PROPOSALS AS A WELCOME MOVE, BUT ONE WHICH
STILL LEFT MANY QUESTIONS UNRESOLVED AND MAJOR DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN THE POSITIONSOF EAST AND WEST.

5. THE GDR STATEMENT WS UNUSUAL IN THAT, UNDER THE
NORMAL ROTATION, THERE WOULD ONLY HAVE BEEN A WESTERN
SPEAKER AT THE JUNE 22 PLENARY MEETING. GIVEN THE
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LACK OF NEW SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT, IT WOULD SEEM THAT

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THE STATEMENT WAS INTENDEDMAINLY TO PROVIDE A PRETEXT
TO STIMULATE FURTHER THE LRELATIVELY FAVORABLE AND
VOLUMINOUS PRESS COVERAGE BEING GIVEN THE EAST'S JUNE
8 PROPOSALS. IN ANY CASE, THE EASTERN SPOKESMAN AT
THE REGULAR POST-PLENARY PRESS BRIEFING, WITH THE
ACTIVE ASSISTANCE OF EASTERN CORRESPONDENTS, PLAYED UP
THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NEW EASTERN MOVE WHICH, HE
SAID, MET QUOTE IN THE LARGEST MEASURE POSSIBLE UNQUOTE
WESTERN REDUCTION PROPOSALS AND CREATD THE REAL
POSSIBLILTY FOR A BREAKTHROUGH IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.
THE SPOKESMAN ALSO EMPHASIZED THE EAST'S INTEREST
IN RECEIVING A CONSTRUCTIVE WESTERN RESPONSE AT AN
EARLY DATE. AFTER THE WESTERN SPOKESMAN NOTED
THAT THE EASTERN PROPOSALS WERECOMPLEX AND REQUIRED
CLARIFICATION, THE EASTERN SPOKESMAN COMMENTED
THAT THE EAST HAD DEPARTED FROM THE USUAL PROCEDURE
IN CHOOSING TO SPEAK AT THE JUNE 22 PLENARY MEETING
IN THE INTEREST OF PROMPTLY PROVIDING SUCH CLARIFICATIONS.

6. IN THE EASTERN PLENARY STATEMENT ITSELF, GDR REP
DEPICTED THE NEW EASTERN PROPOSALS AS A MAJOR MODIFICA-
TION OF THE EARLIER EASTERN PROGRAM MADE IN THE LIGHT
OF WESTERN RELUCTANCE TO TAKE THE EXTENSIVE REDUCTIONS
ENVISAGED IN THE LATTER. OESER STATED THAT THE LATEST
EASTERN MOVE WAS PREMISED ON THE EXISTING APPROXIMATELY
EQUAL LEVELS OF EASTERN AND WESTERN MILITARY PERSONNEL
AND ARMAMENTS, AND CONSEQUENTLY COMBAT CAPABILITY,
WHICH, HE CALIMED, CHARACTERIZED THE CURRENT SECURITY
SITUATION IN THE AREA. AS REGARDS THE CONTENTS OF THE
MOVE, OESER MADE CLEAR THAT THE EAST WAS NOW
PROPOSING A SEPARATE 200,000 MAN CEILING ON AIR
FORCE PERSONNEL. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT THE METHOD
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FOR STAGE II REDUCTIONS HAD PURPOSELY BEEN LEFT OPEN,
BUT STRESSED THAT SUCH REDUCTIONS SHOULD BE BY UNITS
AND INCLUDE ARMAMENTS. GDR REP DEFENDED THE PROVISION
WHICH WOULD ALLOW THE US OR USSR TO NULLIFY ITS
STAGE I OBLIGATIONS IF DISSATISFIED WITH THE RESULTS
OF STAGE II.

7. GDR REP POINTEDLY REFERRED TO THE NATO LONG-TERM
DEFENSE PROGRAM IN ATTACKING WESTERN FORCE IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAMS, IN THIS CONTEXT, HE REPEATED THE
ASSERTION THAT WARSAW PACT FORCES HAD NOT INCREASED
AND WOULD NOT DO SO AND PLUGGED THE EASTERN PROPOSAL
FOR AN IMMEDIATE MILITARY MANPOWER FREEZE. OESER
CONCLUDED HIS PLENARY PRESENTATION BY STATING THAT
THE NEXT MOVE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WAS UP TO THE WEST.
RESOR

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